

Testimony of
Hyacinth Yennie
President
The Maple Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

Transportation Committee
February 14, 2011

In support of

- ***Proposed S.B. No. 706 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL INTERSECTION SAFETY SYSTEMS.***
- ***Proposed S.B. No. 822 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY.***
- ***Proposed H.B. No. 6178 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF TRAFFIC CAMERAS BY MUNICIPALITIES.***
- ***Proposed H.B. No. 6179 AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO OPERATE INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEMS.***

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Hyacinth Yennie and I am the President of the Maple Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Zone community group. I have lived in the South End for over 33 years and have worked as a community activist for over 25 years.

The Maple Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Zone community group represents over 1,000 friends and neighbors in the South End of Hartford. We meet regularly to review issues impacting and affecting our community.

Without a doubt one of the biggest issues we hear over and over is the law-less speeding of cars through red lights at intersections. I'm here today to tell you that we hear these same concerns over and over. It has become major problem and I'm here to ask for your help.

I have witnessed this myself many times when stopped at red lights in my neighborhood. I've seen accidents caused by red light runners with my own eyes and I've unfortunately had to witness a tragic and unfortunate death of by a red light running car that killed another pedestrian.

I want to help you all try and understand that because of these red light runners, who violate the law, many of our communities have become lawless traffic speed zones. We have a major number of drivers in cars that choose to violate the current law and refuse to drive safely.

Automated Safety Cameras that would be allowed under these bills would be good for the people of Hartford and for many other communities around the state. Over 25 States allow them to be utilized at their worst intersections. Over 400 cities and towns currently have them in operation creating safer streets and changing the focus away from protecting the privacy of traffic criminals to ensuring law-abiding citizens can walk and drive safely in their neighborhoods.

The drivers who break the law in Hartford need to be more aware that there are consequences for their actions. While our police officers do an outstanding job handling the many different problems that our communities face, they cannot be a very intersection looking for every violator.

Automated intersection safety cameras will cut down on speeding in our neighborhoods, it will cut down on red light running, and it will cut down on accidents, injuries and deaths

I urge you strongly to consider what we are facing. You may hear concerns about the privacy of people being violated. Since when does the criminal, the person breaking the law over and over, deserve and enjoy any extra rights of privacy???

The victims those that are scared to walk across the street, get injured or even worse killed deserve to the benefit of every possible modern and effective tool to help them live safely.

Don't fall for all the claims of privacy.....it's a false argument. If you want privacy today you need to crawl under your bed.

The need for Red Light Safety Cameras is real in our community. Traffic violators, who run red-lights, are causing accidents, injuries and death in increasing numbers.

Let's finally put the focus on the traffic victims.....not the traffic law violators. I ask for your help by passing this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

